

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 28527 031034Z

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4806

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 28527

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND FOR PRESIDENT'S VISIT: MTN

NOTE: THIS IS ONE OF SEVERAL OF MESSAGES SUBMITTED FOR DEPARTMENT'S USE IN PREPARING PAPERS FOR ECONOMIC SUMMIT. THIS MESSAGE CONCERNS THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

1. FRANCE HAS NEVER SHOWN MUCH ENTHUSIASM FOR A NEW ROUND OF GATT NEGOTIATIONS. FURTHER PROGRESS IN TRADE LIBERALIZATION IS DEEMED IMPRACTICAL DURING THE CURRENT SEVERE RECESSION. SENIOR FRENCH OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH TRADE POLICY ARE CONVINCED THAT SERIOUS BARGAINING AT GENEVA WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE UNTIL AFTER THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. CONSEQUENTLY WE CAN EXPECT THE GOF TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT ON THE EC COMMISSION'S NEGOTIATING MANDATE.

2. THE GOF HAS THREE MAIN CONCERNS ABOUT U.S. AIMS IN THE MTN. FIRST, THEY ARE CONVINCED ONE OF OUR REAL AIMS IS TO UNDERMINE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE EC COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. THEIR STUBBORN RESISTANCE TO ATTEMPTS ON OUR PART TO REACH PROCEDURAL UNDERSTAND-
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PAGE 02 PARIS 28527 031034Z

INGS AT GENEVA ON HOW TO DEAL WITH AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE.

3. SECOND, THEY SUSPECT WE ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL LEVERAGE AT GENEVA IN THE WAY WE PROCEED ON ANTI-DUMPING, COUNTERVAILING DUTY AND ESCAPE CLAUSE ACTIONS. THE RECENT TREASURY DECISION ON THE STEEL COMPLAINT SHOULD HAVE ASSUAGED THESE FEELINGS. NEVERTHELESS THE FRENCH EMBASSY RECENTLY GAVE THE DEPARTMENT A SHARPLY WORDED NOTE EXPRESSING GOF CONCERN OVER POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO FRENCH TRADE FROM POSSIBLE U.S. PROTECTIONIST MEASURES. AT THE SAME TIME THE GOF SHOWS SUPPORT FOR PRESSURE FROM THE FRENCH STEEL INDUSTRY FOR IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. AT THE SUMMIT WE SHOULD URGE THE GOF TO CONTAIN THESE PRESSURES. (SEE SEPARATE EMBASSY CABLES ON STEEL).

4. THIRD, WE BELIEVE THE GOF MAY SURFACE AT THE SUMMIT THE LINKAGE BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM AND THE MTN. THIS HAS BEEN DORMANT SINCE THE TOKYO DECLARATION (QV. PARA 7) BUT IT REMAINS IN THE THINKING OF FRENCH POLICY MAKERS.
RUSH

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